

Applicant : Randy Dean May
Serial No. : 10/688,723
Filed : October 16, 2003
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Attorney's Docket No.: 18327-013001

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. Claim amendments are presented herein to obviate the current rejection.

Claim Objections

Claims 10 and 13 have been amended as suggested.

35 USC § 102 / § 103

Claims 1, 5, 10, 13, and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Lievois. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 13, 17, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kessler. Claims 1, 3, and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Cvetkovic. Claims 2-4 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lievois in view of Inman. Claims 6-9, 11, and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lievois in view of Murray. Claims 12 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lievois in view of Brand and Lehmann. Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lievois in view of Paige. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a light source emitting light at substantially a single wavelength having a width sufficiently narrow for conducting single line spectroscopy and corresponding to a single absorption line at which water molecules absorb light at a substantially greater level than natural gas molecules; a detector configured to detect the intensity of light emitted from said light source; and electronics coupled to said detector for determining the level of water vapor in the natural gas using single line harmonic spectroscopy. Similar amendments were made to claims 10, 12, and 13.

None of the references suggest detecting a moisture in natural gas using a light source which enables the use of single line harmonic spectroscopy. Moreover, claim 8 should be separately allowable as the cited references do not suggest the use of absorption lines at or near

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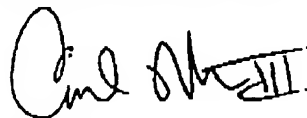
2771.15 nm, 2724.17 nm, 2740.17 nm, 2755.07 nm, 2770.69 nm, and 2786.51 nm. Furthermore, claim 20 should also be separately allowable as the references do not suggest or otherwise contemplate the use of a VCSEL laser operating at substantially a single wavelength in the range of 920 to 960 nm. Accordingly, the claims should be allowable.

Concluding Comments

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/2/05

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